Stile

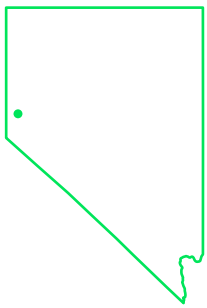
# Stile empowers a Nevada teacher to bring science to life

Alexis Gunnell

Alexis teaches 6th grade at Vaughn Middle School in Reno, Nevada. The science team at her school has been using Stile for the past three years.

We sat down with Alexis to learn more about how she uses Stile's tools to fully engage her students.

Vaughn Middle School in Reno, Nevada



## 1. Customizing lessons to incorporate local phenomenon

Stile supports teachers to bring relevant and local science issues that matter to students into the classroom. Alexis shared that her students connected with Stile's Climate Change unit, especially when looking at it through a local lens. She leveraged Stile's easy-to-use customization tools to add content to lessons, incorporating the effects of climate change on the Truckee River Watershed. Alexis noticed that engagement increased when students learned about a phenomenon that they could see in their community.

> "The kids really love being able to look outside and see what they're learning; they love to connect science to their world here in Reno."

## 2. Applying Stile's accessibility features to increase participation

Stile makes complex scientifc topics and skills accessible for all students. Alexis explained how her students with diverse needs easily learn and participate more with Stile.

> "My English language learners and students who are deaf and hard of hearing are always able to participate with Stile."

Alexis notes that Stile's closed captioning in videos and ability to read text aloud to students, highlighting each word as it reads, make content more accessible. These supports allow her students to understand complex concepts and bolster their scientific literacy skills.

## 3. Facilitating meaningful hands-on learning experiences

When asked about her favorite thing about Stile, without missing a beat, Alexis said Stile's labs.

> "The labs are phenomenal. The kids are loving them. They are engaging, exciting, and relevant."

Alexis can efficiently facilitate interactive, hands-on experiences with Stile and easy-to-source materials. In addition, Alexis recalls that her students had a blast while completing a lab activity in which they examined an animal cell using a microscope simulation. Even with limited access to resources, Alexis' students can think and act like real scientists with Stile.